



152nd MAINTENANCE COMPANY DEPLOYMENT NEWS

Pride In AMERICA Begins with ME! 152d Maintenance Company, Camp Liberty Iraq



Commander's Corner

15 Nov 2005

Dear 152 "Extended Family"- As I write this another Veteran's Day has gone by, which now seems to have taken on a different significance than it did in years past. I remember talking to my Dad (Air Force Veteran) and my Father-in-Law (Army Veteran) prior to the deployment, and talking about the upcoming stresses of deployment to a combat zone and the conflicting emotions of apprehension combined with a sense of pride to be chosen to be put into the fight against the Global War on Terrorism. In their wisdom they offered me the following sage advice: "Don't worry Son, hundreds of thousands of soldiers have gone before you and served, and made their country proud. You will too. It is now your time." It has indeed been the "time" of the 152, and when we return in the spring months, we too will join the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have served before us, and will too have made their country proud as veterans. To the Soldiers, NCOs, Officers and 152 families, I am deeply proud to have served with you as we begin the last months of our deployment.

The Holiday Season is upon us, and rest assured we will be with our families in spirit, as well as with our 10th MTN comrades in celebration and united faith. We fully expect the mail room to be full of outgoing and incoming letters, cards and gifts; and already the Dining Facility is gearing up to provide our soldiers with holiday meals and quality entertainment. It should prove to be a good time for all. This is a great time to take some time in reflection about what is really important in our lives; to think beyond the shopping and materialism and credit card debt. It is a time to think of our loved ones, to treasure them and the time spent together. It is also a time of prayer and thanks, as many humans are not as lucky as we are as a society of the United States of America.

To close, don't let holiday celebration and poor judgment ruin our holiday season. If you have the chance to party and drink, please don't drive. If you see someone who shouldn't be driving, take care of them and make sure they get home safely. The 152 has come too far safely as a family to have an unnecessary accident ruin what so far has been a good thing. Take care, and God Bless.

CPT Christopher Moody
"Always Professional"

*152 Congratulates:

NCO of the month for October-SSG Paul Dionne

Soldier of the month for October-SPC Corey Bouchard

Family Support Group Points of Contact:

CPT Linda Johnson: Linda.Johnson@ia.ngb.army.mil (Iowa)

Mrs. Linda Emonds: Lindaemonds@earthlink.net (Maine)

Mrs. Eva Valentine: jevalentine2005@wmconnect.com (Washington)



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Executive Officer

It has been a pleasure serving as the Executive Officer while 1LT Jines took his leave. The Unit conducted business as usual by performing equipment repairs and force protection duties. The unit has received many care packages from several organizations and individuals containing calling cards, hygiene products, books, and food. We wish all of our families and supporters a wonderful holiday.

*CW2 Michael "JJ" Rideout
152nd Automotive Technician*



News from the Top Wrench

The weather is finally cooling down, the colder it gets the closer that we are to going home. With the holidays upon us we are thinking of being there with you. We also know that the time is getting closer to our departure from here. Every soldier will be on guard until we get on the plane.

We started tours of Saddam's hunting palace; it is amazing how someone can live so rich while the rest of his people go without. Touring the palace makes me realize that we live in a great country. We will go through three significant events in Iraq fight for freedom, two events being the peoples vote on their constitution and parliamentary elections on the 15 of Dec. The third being the trial of Saddam. Years from now we can all be sitting down and think back that being here was worth it because life without freedom is no life at all. We are giving the Iraqi people a reason to live. I am looking forward to the day that we start packing to go home. We are fortunate to send soldiers home for the month of December which means that we will have sent 100% of the soldier's that wanted to go home by the end of February. That is great. My prayers are with all of you this holiday season.

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

**1SG Daniel Grenier
152 Maint Co
'Always Professional.'**



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GIT N 'R Done...
1-31 OCTOBER 2005

Task Organization: The 152nd maintenance company is task organized according functional mission support.

The 152nd Maintenance Company assigned. Soldiers are distributed across a wide range of missions;

HQ/10th BSB augmentation

Riva Ridge Security (formally Force Protection Tiger Patrol): Soldiers are assigned to guard high risk targets such as the Gym, MWR center and the DFAC.

North Liberty Towers: FOB perimeter security

Camp Cropper Security: High value detainee detention facility.

TSO Warehouse

B Co Support (Shop Office, S&R, Wheel, Armament, GSE,)

152nd Maintenance Team (Vehicle Excellence, Organizational Maintenance, Track, Construction, Shop Office, Line Replaceable Unit)

Convoy Security Team

HEADQUARTERS

The month of October has busy month for the 152 Maintenance Company. We have been extremely busy with NCOERs, End of tour awards, and providing area support to the brigade in both force protection and equipment maintenance. Our soldiers are doing great things every day, and are receiving accolades in the form of coins, awards, and face to face praise from leaders at all levels. The 10th BSB has been an outstanding organization to work with, and the level of care and professionalism channeled to soldiers at all ranks is tremendous. The 152 is very fortunate to have aligned with this organization for the last six months of our tour. We are very proud to support!

The Company had no gains or losses in the month of October. Currently the unit has one soldier assigned to the Rear Detachment in Maine bringing the Company's total strength on 31 October 2005 to 241.

October brought a welcomed change from the summer temperatures. All of the soldiers assigned to the 152 have benefited from the mild, comfortable weather, positively affecting morale. This has been a very busy month, as we integrated with 10th Mnt BSB and the mission progresses.

In October we established a Field Sanitation Team (SSG Hildebrand and SGT Ventimiglia), which has the prime focus of control of insects and rodents on the residence trailer pad. This will involve coordination with civilian contractors as the insect and rodent problem has the potential of spreading disease, on the FOB and when we return to the states.

This month was the official start to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). SSG Hildebrand is also handling this mission. Support materials have been distributed to the troops and donations have been flowing in. CFC will continue throughout the fall season until mid-December. We hope to have maximum participation.

We are now in the heart of NCOER season, on 20 October 2005, all E-6 and above NCOERs were turned into the Administrative Staff for final review. A total of 59 NCOERs were turned in. SSG Hafford and SSG Parker have been working hard on them ever since. To get all these documents ready for turn-in, the Commander directed three nights of



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leadership workshops. All leaders who have responsibilities related to NCOERs were present. Positive results were obtained with acquisition of skills from the FormFlow program.

During this period the unit responded to multiple tasking related to on-going operations in support of Operation Free Speech. Both the 7.5 ton and 22.5 ton cranes were used to help move concrete barriers to ensure safety at all polling stations in our Areas of Operation. The nationwide vote was completed with minimal problems. Other missions in our unit were in an elevated status, anticipating insurgent activities that luckily did not materialize.

During the month of October the 152nd Maintenance Company acknowledged and awarded two outstanding soldiers; SPC Bouchard as Soldier Of The Month and SSG Dionne as NCO Of The Month. All other awards are to be reported in the month of November.

Retention; A month to remember! SGT Alpha Williams reports that 8 soldiers have re-enlisted during the month of October, bringing the total while in theater to 24, representing all three states in the 152nd. On 28 October, 2005, at the Track Section MST, MG Libby had the honor and privilege of leading the swearing in ceremony at 1715, with the soldier's dinner following at 1830.

The following soldiers were promoted during the month of October:

<u>Name and Rank</u>	<u>Rank Promoted to</u>
SGT David Butler	SSG
PV2 Eric M. Elliot	SPC
SPC Randall Truman	SGT

The Supply Room is run by SFC Hartley Mowatt (Supply Sergeant) SSG Paul Dionne (Asst. Supply Sergeant), and SGT Claude Castonguay (Armorer). Supply has been very busy this month working with all missions and starting to work toward re-deployment back to the states.

SGT Castonguay has been completing Quarterly maintenance on all weapons, and to have all inspections completed by his leave time in December. SGT Castonguay continues to do an excellent job in running the arms room, while also running the supply room connex by issuing and receiving supplies. SGT Castonguay received the Army Achievement Medal for his outstanding work with the Arms Room.

SSG Dionne has been busy this past month by assisting the 10th Mountain HHC Supply Sergeant. SSG Dionne was put in for an Army Commendation Medal for all his hard work. SSG Dionne continues to assist the troops as the Pad #1 Manager, taking care to see all the housing and latrine facilities stay up to standards. Mayor Cell meetings are regularly attended.

SFC Mowatt has supervised the packing of the first of many connexes to be loaded in the next several months as we start tackling the mission of re-deployment back to Maine, 951st Maintenance starts looking to pack for Washington, and 3655th Maintenance starts packing for Iowa. It will be hard, but we as a team are starting to get ahead of the packing and redeployment requirements as time is flying by. Supply requests are being done as the 10th Mtn BSB was having problems with their computer systems.



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SSG L. Zbylut has been assigned to Pad Detail, working with the Mayor's Cell at Camp Liberty, Iraq. As NCOIC for Escort Detail, he has been responsible for escort of Camp Liberty Bazaar personnel, who work in coordination with AAFES. This also involves working with AFEES management with daily interaction with local merchants from Baghdad at the Bazaar. Camp Liberty Bazaar is a place where soldiers come to shop for merchandise, and hand crafted items from Baghdad. It is a great and fun place to shop.



Visitation

MG Libby (Maine Adjutant General) and MG Clark (New Hampshire Adjutant General) were scheduled to visit the 152nd AO on 28th and 29th of October. The 152nd conducted a key leader dinner with MG Libby and MG Clark on the 28th at the Joint Visitors Center DFAC Camp Liberty Iraq. A tour of the North Liberty Towers was planned for the 29th and a reenlistment ceremony at the Track work area and a Soldiers Dinner at Blizzard Inn DFAC.



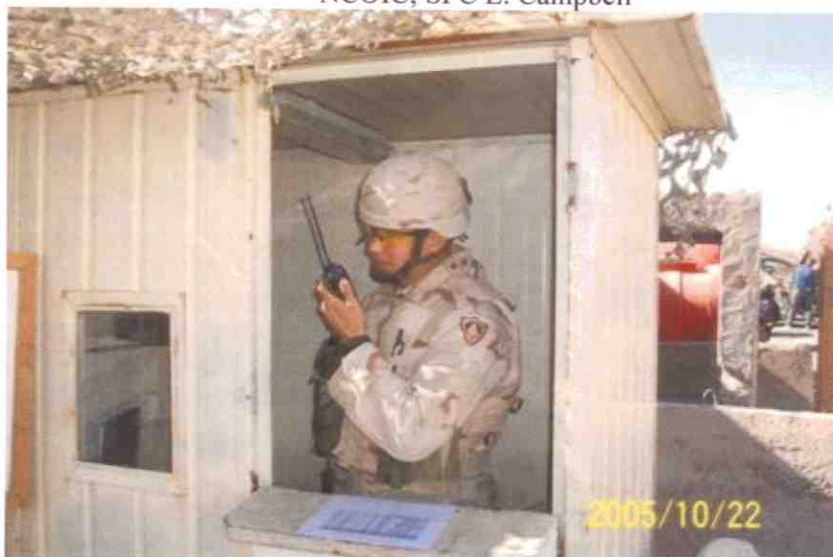
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Riva Ridge Security (Force Protection)

OICs; 1LT Wade
NCOIC; SFC E. Campbell



Sergeant of the Guard (SOG) for Force Protection is SFC Still, SSG Devoe, and SFC Rodda. During this important month of October, there was a historic vote in Iraq for the new Iraqi Constitution. Force Protection was alert accordingly. A major accomplishment for this month was the completion of all E-8/E-7 and E-6 NCOERs for the October 15th required deadline.

SPC Bouchard received a 152nd Coin of Excellence from 1SG Grenier for all his good work, and was selected as Soldier of the Month from Force Protection.

SGT Wicker left Force Protection and went to Maintenance Control, and SPC Ellis came to replace him on 3rd shift. Soldiers who took leave were SSG Breton, SPC Vincent, SGT Thomas, and SPC Williams.



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North Liberty Tower Mission

OIC: 2LT N. Ginther

NCOIC: MSG J. Campbell



A treat was planned by the HQ element to bring food to their fellow soldiers in the towers. On Veterans Day the tower guards received the finest meal a soldier could ask for. Lobster, Steak, Corn, Potatoes, Hamburgers, Hotdogs and roast pig. Smiling from ear to ear SGT Wallace accepted his meal and thanked the soldiers for the event. Sitting in a tower, eating their meal and enjoying the cool breeze the soldiers from North Liberty Towers enjoyed their Veterans Day.



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Camp Cropper Mission

OIC: CW2 T. Gillette

NCOIC: SFC St. Michel



Camp Cropper continues to maintain the Army standards and each soldier continues to excel in their assigned mission. The soldiers have performed at an outstanding level as Tower Guards on the Camp Cropper Mission. They always display a positive attitude and continuously stay alert and focused at all times. Each soldier takes great pride in his appearance and accountability for his sensitive items, personnel equipment and his/her actions.

Organizational Maintenance History

During the month of October, Company Maintenance completed services. Company Maintenance in the last seven months have taken a backlog of over 500 services and reduced this to just 8 overdue for the month of October. Company Maintenance has been very busy with on spot repairs and the installation of repair parts that have been ordered throughout the month. Our Unit Welders, SSG Jernigan and SGT Blasburg, has started a very large project of the construction of guard towers. This will keep them very busy for quite a while. Company Maintenance also was very busy at the stenciling of all equipment.



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152 Track Repair Section

OIC: CW3 Michael Stewart

NCOIC: SFC Craig Murphy



Track Section is now supporting the 1-10th Mountain Division by maintaining armored personnel carriers. Track Section also does routine org. maintenance on its own recovery vehicle, and assists the 2-130th with some GS level maintenance on components for the fighting vehicles.

At the time of this writing, Track Section consists of the following people:

CW3 Michael Stewart- Technical Supervisor

SFC Craig Murphy-Section Chief,

SSG Dean Johnson- Shop Foreman

SSG Bradley Crees- Technical Inspector, Sr. Track Vehicle Repairer

SGT Robert Haspels-Team Leader

SGT Joshua Weber- Team Leader

SGT Jarred Hoyt- Mechanic

SGT Eric Davis- Mechanic

SGT Douglas Engle-Mechanic,

SPC Chris Cromwell- Mechanic

SPC Shane Boyington- Mechanic

SPC Anthony Baker- Mechanic

October has found Track Section once again busy with annual services, technical inspections, and a few major overhaul projects, to include a new engine in one vehicle, and a new transmission in another. We are slowly, but surely bringing these vehicles back to 1020 standards.

Mid-October finds us with SFC Murphy on leave, and SSG Johnson filling in his absence. Chief Stewart is back from leave, and is busy doing Warrant Officer Stuff. SSG Crees, SGT Haspels, SGT Weber and SGT Engle are all very busy leading their respective teams in accomplishing the annual services, as well as fixing deadline items as quickly as possible.

As a form of preventative maintenance, as well as safety, and training for mission success, SGT. Haspels, SSG Johnson, and SFC Murphy have been giving our friends in 10th Mountain PMCS and driving classes. SGT. Haspels instructs the group in the classroom, and when all have taken a written test, they do hands on PMCS and driving, with Haspels, Johnson, and Murphy. So far we have had roughly 30 soldiers who have never driven a track vehicle before run



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through our program. According to our feedback, we receive from them, it is a great way to learn, familiarize, and become proficient in operating and maintaining these vehicles. So we will continue to offer the program to all who request. We have just passed the halfway point of this deployment, but it is never too late to start thinking of our departure. Our maintenance program has changed slightly, starting now; we are going to be having each company's org maint. Sect. ordering organizational parts for the vehicles, and they will bring the vehicle, the parts, and a mechanic down to the shop, where we will beginning to train our replacements on how to service and repair these vehicles, so they will be ready to take over when we depart for home.

All in all, it's been an extremely busy month, with some late nights and extra hours, getting these vehicles mission capable, and getting these troops on the road. The appreciation and thanks that we get from the 10th Mountain soldiers does, indeed, make it all worthwhile when the job is complete!

CONVOY SECURITY TEAM (CST)

OIC: WO1 D. Cullivan

NCOIC: SFC R. Duncan



The 152nd Maintenance Company Convoy Security Team (CST) completed its last assigned mission in the month of October.

During the entire period May-Oct 2005, Warrant Officer One Cullivan's team, "Black Bear" (Named after the Maine Black Bear) Convoy Security Team successfully accomplishing a myriad of missions for elements moving within the Theatre of Operations.

The CST team performed as Convoy Security for multiple diverse missions of multiple degrees of complexity. The "Black Bear" Convoy Security Team, a Combat Force Multiplier providing security for convoys and movements across three division boundaries, allowed the 256th Brigade infantry and engineer qualified soldiers to refocus on their wartime missions. Unlike other Convoy Security Teams assigned to specific sectors, the "Black Bear" element conducted movements as far north as Balad to as far south as Scania on the Kuwait border.



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With WO1 Cullivan's mode of operational thinking and personal ownership were paramount in every mission. His team participated in vehicle recovery, Green Zone R&R runs, EOD escort, barrier emplacement, inner/outer cordon and from the BN to DIV level on Technical Tactical Procedures and convoy movement within a combat zone.



AUTO 1

Hello family members,

It's hard to believe Christmas is almost upon us. Time here in Iraq has been going by pretty fast as we are very busy most of the time. Most of us in Auto Plt. are still on Force Protection duty of some sort and the rest are doing maintenance on war vehicles. It is no longer hot over here as a matter of fact it is down right chilly in the mornings cool enough to wear a jacket. This type of weather is much more appealing than temps of 120 degrees day after day, except when it rains then everything turns to mud!

December is going to be a historical month here in Iraq as the Iraqi people will get the opportunity to vote in national elections for the first time ever. This will all take place on Dec. 15th and the 152 will be a vital part in the support of the mission that will help secure the vote. After the people vote the plan is to have a government seated by Dec. 31st. Although our soldiers will not be outside the base during this time what we do inside is still an important part in making sure everyone gets to vote safely.

We have had another soldier from Auto Plt. recognized for his hard work; SPC Cory Bouchard was selected as Soldier of the Month for the month of October. SPC Bouchard has been on the Force Protection team from day one and has done an outstanding job through some pretty trying times. Congratulations to him on a job well done. Cory comes from Eagle Lake, Me. and was pulled from the artillery unit to deploy with the 152nd Maint. Co. and we have been glad to have him here with us. We also have several other soldiers who joined us from the county and they have truly been an asset to our mission.

All the soldiers in Auto Plt. would like to wish our families and significant others a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This will most likely be the longest month of the whole deployment for most of us. You will all be in our thoughts during this time even though we can't be there with you. We would also like to thank people for the packages we have been receiving; there is always something in there that every soldier can use. Soldiers taking leave from Auto in Dec. are SGT Whitmore, SPC Lausier, PFC Fowle and SPC Smith. Now I have a few messages from the troops.

Happy B-Day to my daughter Ellen 12/7 and my niece Jessy 12/4 from SSG Dave Devoe Sabattus, Me.
Happy B-Day to my girl friend Jessica 11/23 and mom 12/19 from SPC Ken Roy Winslow, Me.



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Happy Anniversary to my wife Bonnie 12/31 from SSG Lewis Brown Monmouth, Me.

Happy B-Day to son George 12/16, sister Kim 12/23, nephew Sam 12/3 and niece Halee 12/3 from SGT George Whitmore, Caribou, Me.

Happy B-day to my wife Shannon 12/4 from SFC Anthony Gray Sangerville, Me.

Happy B-Day to my adopted grandson Keegan 12/26 SFC Ed Campbell Pittston, Me.

So long for now our next news letter will be out the first part of January.

SFC Ed Campbell

Wolf Pack

Hello to all Wolf Pack and Wolf Pack family members back home!

Well here we are "Another month down and one month closer to our return!" The day time temperatures have dropped to around the 70 degree mark and the night time temperatures have fallen to the 50's and we have seen some 40's. WOW!!! We have even seen some clouds and a couple of sprinkles and from what we hear we should see some rain soon.

This past month SFC Bellegarde, SSG Sinclair, SPC Philbrook and PFC Matthew Wright all made a safe return from their 15 days of leave. PFC Wright did make it home in time to witness the birth of his daughter Emilee Grace Wright 7 lbs 15 oz on October 15th. For the month of November we have Chief Cullivan, SSG Cote, SSG Gray and SGT Roy all making their well deserved trip home.

The Holiday Season is fast approaching and we all wish we were home with family.

We miss you and love you all!!!

SFC Gary St Michel

Armament Platoon

The end of October was marked with a visit from The Adjutant General of Maine, Major General Libby. Several soldiers from the Armament platoon were sworn by Major General Libby as a result of their choice to extend their enlistment as members of the Army National Guard. Major General Libby had some very good things to say to the troops and conducted a town hall meeting to hear their concerns. We felt very privileged to once again be visited by members of the Chain Of Command.

November began with a drastic change in the temperatures. Our nightly volleyball games were met with temperatures down into the 40's. Day time temperatures were quite comfortable, ranging from the 70s to 80s. Several soldiers took the initiative to pass the APFT during the month. We applaud their hard work and dedication to setting the standard in theatre.

As our mission entered its 7th month, two soldiers were recognized with coins from the 3/6 FA Commander for their efforts. SSG Hill and SGT Roberts were both awarded coins for their hard-work during a training exercise that was conducted during the month of October. Their commitment to mission accomplishment and selfless service is an



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inspiration to all of us. The night shift also conducted several training scenarios to test soldier's radio skills, execution of the 9-line medivac, and reaction to different situations. All the soldiers did an outstanding job and represented the Company well.

"Mission First, Soldiers Always!"

Respectfully submitted,

2LT Nick Ginther
Armament Platoon Leader

"Comments from the Chief"

We are pretty well settled in our new MST location, we saw a sharp increase in the amount of work orders being completed. We had a challenging time coming up with a generator needed for our variable power needs but it eventually was resolved. Additionally, we received a fuel cell that alleviated the need for the soldiers to use five gallon gas cans anymore. Both of these resolutions were a big morale boost for them. It has been amazing to watch the easy transition the troops have made while rotating to maintenance after many months on force protection missions. Our troops really are among the best. We look forward to giving more of our soldiers the opportunity to rotate to the shops in the next few months.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Gillette
Armament Technician

Auto 2

Hello again Washington State! It has been a busy month and we have seen a lot of changes.

As you all know, the 256th Combat Brigade left back to Louisiana, and we now fall under the 10th Mountain Division from NY.

Well, the New Yorkers came in here and started changing rules on about anything they could get away with; pretty common practice in the military, the new leadership likes everyone to know 'they' are in charge. We had an issue at the dining facility, and Sgt Hall practiced her right to freedom of speech, sending a letter off to the Stars and Stripes newspaper. Let's just say, she got noticed, and it made a difference...congratulations Sgt. Hall for being a true leader.

To other news...

Fobbit: 'fă-b&t noun; a soldier who rarely (or not at all) goes "outside the wire."

Short-timer: 'short-'tl-m&r noun; The 152nd Maintenance soldier who is able to laugh at the active duty 10th Mountain soldier after being called a Fobbit., usually accompanied with..."Hope you enjoy Baghdad next summer, I'll be back home."



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Yes, it's true! We must be getting short...there has been talk about Relief In Place (RIP) dates, the dates we will hand our jobs over to other units; a deadline has been mentioned for End of Tour Awards; talk about our de-mobilization at Fort Bliss. Yes, we have definitely turned a corner on this deployment. Most of us don't dwell on the fact, but it really does help knowing we are getting closer.

The snow isn't falling here yet, but! The PX is selling desk-top artificial Christmas trees, complete with lights! Yes, I bought mine today, and it is plugged in and lit right now.

As always, we thank our families and friends back home for your support in allowing us to serve our great country. Keep the faith, and let's start planning for the reunion when we get to make up for lost time!

Happy Holidays!
Joel Bottem,
and all of us here from the 951st Maintenance Company